

# • COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XVIII

SEPTEMBER, 1951

NUMBER 9

## Arizona Banker Reports State Has Ample Water

Two plus two make four everywhere but in Arizona.

For years Arizona interests have been attempting to secure from the Federal Government money to build the proposed fantastic Central Arizona Project which would cost the nation's taxpayers more than \$2,000,000,000 in interest alone.

Arizona's request for this huge irrigation scheme is based on the plaintive plea that her water supply is now seriously depleted and, as a result, her economy is in danger.

On August 13 Life Magazine brought Arizona's water problem to the attention of the nation in an article in which her drought conditions were profusely illustrated.

But according to Walter R. Bimson, President of the Valley National Bank in Phoenix, Arizona's agricultural and livestock industries are not in danger and there also is plenty of water for her cities.

In an article "Report On Farm and Range Conditions in Arizona" released shortly after the Life Magazine story appeared, Mr. Bimson stated: "Our Agricultural production in this area is not dependent upon rainfall but upon water stored in our reservoirs, caught in the spring when the streams are filled with water from melting snow in the high mountain areas and released during the crop growing season for the use of our farmers in the valleys."

Further on in his report Mr. Bimson says: "It is our best judgement that the present water shortage will not this year adversely affect the total production of crops in Arizona. One reason for this is that farmers know in advance how much water they have available under our controlled system of irriga-

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Julian Hinds, the District's General Manager and Chief Engineer, is shown above on a recent inspection trip viewing Copper Basin, the second in the District's chain of seven storage reservoirs. Copper Basin holds 2,500,000,000 gallons of water and is located in the Whipple mountains approximately three miles from the Colorado River. In the right foreground can be seen a section of Copper Basin dam.

## District to Expand Pumping System to Meet Increasing Demands for Colorado River Water

Southern California's increasing demand for Colorado River water is revealed this month in the action of the Board of Directors in allocating \$50,000 for preliminary design work on two new pumps to be installed in each of the District's five pumping plants.

Work on the designing of the new

pumps will be under the direction of Robert M. Peabody, whose retirement from the District as Chief Electrical Engineer, becomes effective the end of this month, but who has been retained in an advisory capacity.

At the present time there are three pumps in each of the five plants. They

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# **AQUEDUCT NEWS**

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Published monthly in the interest of Field and Office Workers on the Colorado River Aqueduct, and for the information of all other citizens of the Metropolitan Water District.

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## **Expand Pumping System**

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were installed in 1940 at a cost of approximately \$8,400,000. It is estimated that at today's prices the cost of two new pumps for each plant will be approximately \$9,000,000.

The ever-increasing dependence of Southern California on Colorado River water is revealed in the District's statement of water revenues. In 1943-44 water sales amounted to \$325,000 compared to 1950-51 revenue of \$2,340,000.

This sharp increase in Colorado River water consumption has been due to the combined factors of drought and increasing domestic and industrial demands for water.

Another index which reflects the severity of the drought in the Southern California area is the increase in the number of square miles serviced by the District. At the start of the drought this area amounted to 600 square miles but has grown to about 1200 square miles.

## **Banker's Report**

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tion and plant only as much land as they can adequately water. Furthermore, by more intensive and careful cultivation of the remaining land, they sometimes actually produce as much on this smaller acreage as they do when they farm their entire acreage. For this year, at least, our water shortage, while a matter of real concern, will not result in any critical crop failures or material reductions in total farm production."

In referring to his State's livestock industry Mr. Bimson said: "The ranges, unlike the farm areas, are dependent upon rainfall but the type of grass and browse providing food for cattle require comparatively little moisture. Small reservoirs and water tanks strategically located to catch and store rain water and melting snow provide water for the stock and, where necessary, wells and windmill pumps supplement the surface water supply."

Mr. Bimson concludes his case for Arizona's water supply by assuring his readers that there is ample water for all its cities. He states, "There need be no fear about the shortage of water either currently or in the future, affecting adversely the growth of our cities. It is quite possible that long continued drought might reduce our cultivated farm acreage, but drought, no matter how long continued, could not reduce to a critical point, the supply of water

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## **For the RECORD**

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Julian Hinds, filed September 1951, covering District operations for August 1951.)

**Annexation Proceedings** — The directors of Chino Basin Municipal Water District and of Orange County Municipal Water District have each set October 16 as the date for election on annexation to the Metropolitan Water District.

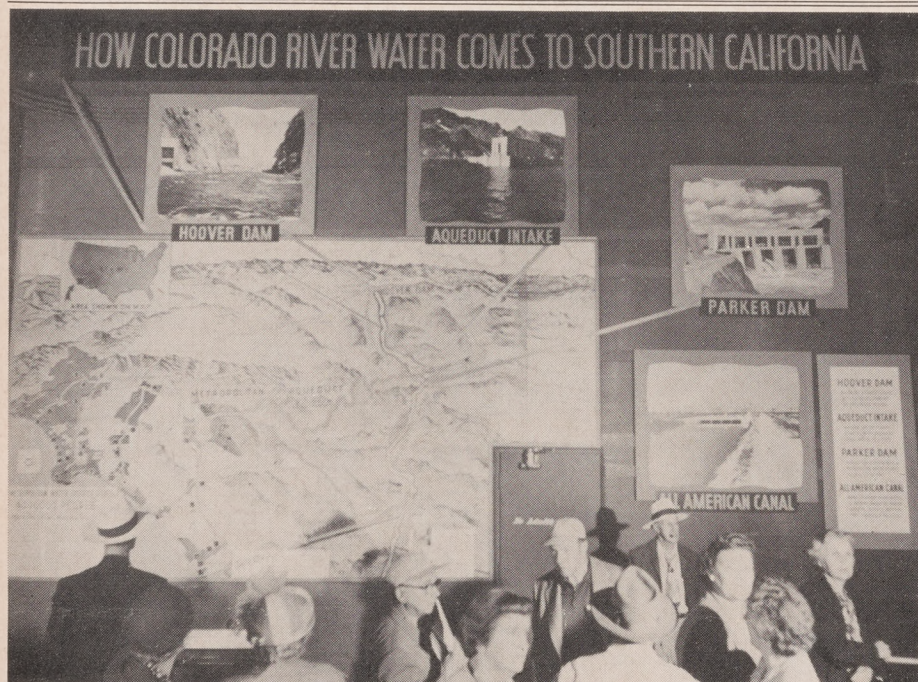
**Hoover Dam** — The District power system was in parallel with the Southern California Edison Company system except for a 10-hour scheduled outage. Energy delivered to the Edison system totaled 27,904,303 kwhr and the peak delivery was 110,000 kw. At Lake Mead during the month the water level dropped 1.17 feet to elevation 1167.00 feet on August 31, a loss of 145,000 acre-feet in storage and reducing available storage to 19,518,000 acre-feet. The discharge at Hoover Dam in August averaged 15,000 cfs compared with 12,700 in July.

**Parker Dam** — The Lake Havasu water level varied from a high at elevation 449.8 feet on August 3 to a low of 448.2 on August 28, and stood at 448.7 on August 31. Discharge of the Colorado at Parker Dam averaged 15,000 cfs compared with 15,300 in July. Peak power delivery to the Parker system was 52,000 kw.

**Pumping** — Two pump units per plant were operated continuously throughout the month.

**Distribution** — Delivery of Colorado River water to the San Diego aqueduct was continuous throughout the month at an average rate of 105.9 cfs. At Lake Mathews the surface elevation on August 31 was 1347.43 feet, with available storage of 85,308 acre-feet, a decrease for the month of 6,351 acre-feet. At the Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant, Colorado River water was softened from an average hardness of 311 ppm to 124 ppm at an average rate of 273.5 cfs. Rate of inflow varied from a minimum of 121.2 to a maximum of 308.5 cfs, or 199 million gallons per day. This maximum daily rate was a record high for the plant. The plant facilities handled the load without difficulty.

**Purchasing** — In August the purchasing division issued 277 purchase orders and two purchase agreements totaling approximately \$57,600.



Visitors to Pomona's famed Los Angeles County Fair are shown grouped around the Colorado River Association's exhibit. The exhibit covered one entire end of the Fair's huge agricultural pavilion and through maps and large pictures told the story of how Southern California homes, industry and agriculture depend on Colorado River water.



## Time Reveals Colorado River Aqueduct Is Southern California's Biggest Bargain

On the morning of September 30, 1931 Southern California residents read the news that Colorado River Aqueduct Bonds had been authorized by an overwhelming majority.

Voters living in the thirteen cities in the Metropolitan Water District had gone to the polls and registered their faith in the future of Southern California by approving by a majority of five to one a \$220,000,000 bond issue to construct the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Today, twenty years later, the wise decision of these voters, even in the face of a nationwide depression, in approving the aqueduct is emphasized by the fact that at the present time 35 cities and a number of unincorporated communities, with a combined total population of nearly four million persons, depend upon Colorado River water.

The original thirteen cities in the Metropolitan Water District that authorized the bond issue were Los Angeles, Glendale, Long Beach, Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Compton, Torrance, San Marino, Santa Ana, Anaheim, Fullerton and Pasadena.

Under the direction of Frank E. Weymouth, then General Manager and Chief Engineer of the District, men and machines first started the tremendous job of building the aqueduct in December 1932. Before the job was completed, almost nine years later, countless thousands of tons of earth had been moved, five pump lifts had been established to boost the water over mountain peaks, and many miles of tunnel had been drilled in order that Southern California would at last have a dependable water supply.

It was on June 17, 1941 that the first Colorado River water pulsed through 300 miles of aqueduct tunnels and conduits into the city of Pasadena. Today the District's entire aqueduct distribution system totals 457 miles and extends south to San Diego.

The building of the huge aqueduct gave much needed employment to thousands of men and women. At the peak employment period more than 9,000 persons were busily engaged in bringing Colorado River water to Southern California's doorstep.

Additional evidence of the growth of the District in the twenty years is re-

vealed in the assessed valuation figures covering this period. In 1931 the original thirteen cities in the District had a total assessed valuation of \$2,382,184,445 compared to the present total assessed valuation of the 35 cities and unincorporated areas in the District of more than \$4,000,000,000.

The Colorado River aqueduct has since proved to be one of the biggest bargains in the history of the State. The price of such a project today would be many times greater.

Though plagued by a seven-year drought and faced with the problem of providing an adequate water supply for thousands of newcomers seeking homes and employment, Southern California can look to the future with confidence all because its citizens of twenty years ago had the courage and foresight, the knowledge and skill to make water from the mighty Colorado River available to the homes and industries of this area.

It is important to bear in mind, however, that this Colorado River water supply is now seriously threatened by the fantastic Central Arizona project pending in the United States Congress.

## Foothill Water District Vote Set for December 18

By action this month of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, December 18 has been set for residents of the proposed Foothill Municipal Water District to vote on the formation of the district and also on the election of officers for the District. At a later date residents of the area plan to vote on annexing the area to the Metropolitan Water District.

The Foothill Municipal Water District would include the area west from the boundary of Sierra Madre to Tujunga and from the boundaries of Glendale and Pasadena north to the boundary of the Angeles National Forest.

The new District has a total assessed valuation of approximately \$70,000,000 and includes the communities of Altadena, La Crescenta, La Canada and Flintridge.

## Name Lester D. Martin New Purchasing Agent

Lester D. Martin, who first entered the employ of the District in 1933, has been appointed Purchasing Agent succeeding Earle W. Putnam who died unexpectedly in July.



LESTER D. MARTIN

During his years with the District, Mr. Martin has held positions as Clerk and Storekeeper in the Operations and Maintenance Division. He left the District in 1941 to become office manager for Contractors Pacific Naval Airbases, then engaged in constructing the Kaneohe Naval Air Base approximately 14 miles from Honolulu.

He reentered the employ of the District in 1946.

Mr. Martin is married and lives in Santa Ana with his wife Florence, and ten-year old son, Donnie.

## Banker's Report

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for further development and growth of our cities."

Based upon Mr. Bimson's own report there would seem to be no valid reason why the taxpayers of the nation should be called upon to pay for the multi-million dollar Central Arizona Project which Arizona land promoters profess to need so desperately.



# NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Glenn T. Lucas, Division Foreman on the Palos Verdes feeder and Palos Verdes reservoir, will complete 20 years of service with The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California on October 6, 1951.

Glenn began his service with the District on October 6, 1931 as instru-



GLENN T. LUCAS

mentman on the early surveys of the aqueduct across the desert. He was the first inspector on aqueduct construction north of Indio in the Little San Bernardino Mountains where he supervised the construction of water supply reservoirs early in 1933.

This was followed by larger assignments on tunnels and pipe lines until the completion of the system in 1941. Glenn became an authority on concrete and gunite work and has earned the title of Mr. Concrete himself.

Since 1941 he has held a responsible position on the operation and maintenance of the distribution system with headquarters at the Palos Verdes reservoir where he lives with his wife Lyda and their daughter Shirley. We are all happy to congratulate Glenn on his 20 years of service and extend best wishes for many more years with the District.

Fred Stehn, Maintenance Mechanic at Gene, retires September 30 after 18 years service with the District.

Lyle Murphy, son of Walter Murphy, Station Electrician at Gene, visited his parents recently. He has been stationed aboard the U.S.S. Destroyer "Sutherland" which has been patrolling the waters off Formosa and Japan.

That long sigh that was heard recently over in the San Gabriel valley came from Dorothy Goddard, Secretary, as she placed the last concrete block on the 200 foot wall around her home.

\* \* \* \*

Dale Malquist, Pumping Plant Operator at Hayfield, deserves a pat on the back for the fine job he is doing in directing scout activities at Hayfield. He has thirteen boys in his troop, including several from Desert Center and the Kaiser Iron Mine.

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Clyde Taylor, Station Electrician at Iron Mountain, is spending his vacation time building a motel at Vidal, Calif.

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Albert W. Briggs, Lineman stationed at Arlington, is shown on his way up in the world. However, it's all part of his daily job of keeping the District's telephone and power lines in operation. He has been with the District since 1936.

\* \* \* \*

Ray Ackerson, Maintenance Mechanic at Gene, leaves shortly on a deer hunting expedition into the wilds of Utah.

\* \* \* \*

It's safe to bet that Fred B. Peavy, Station Electrician at Gene, is getting his fill of black eyed peas and grits while vacationing in his hometown of Lilly, Georgia.

\* \* \* \*

Gene Camp welcomed the return this month of Bill Beals and family after their summer vacation. Bill teaches school at Parker Dam.



Sam Thomason, District Lineman stationed at Banning, was mighty proud to pose for this picture with his pretty daughter Pat, age 13.

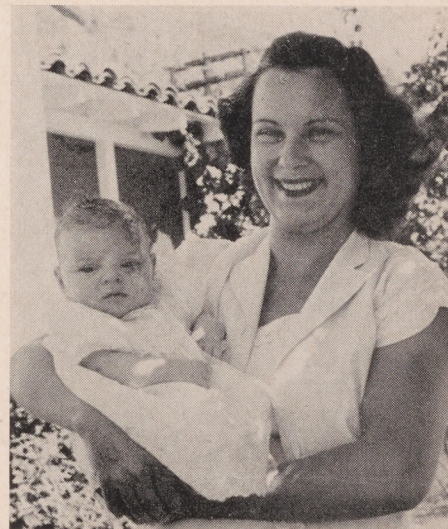
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John Keigan, Senior Draftsman, reports that he had his car overhauled the other day and by leaving early in the morning was able to make the round trip from his home in Baldwin Hills to Redondo Beach in one day.

\* \* \* \*

James Blankley, Maintenance Mechanic, and Owen Crawley, Division Foreman at the Orange County Reservoir, have been seen oiling up shooting irons in anticipation of the deer season.

\* \* \* \*



Here's what is known as a real cute armful. Mrs. Dale Malquist holds her three months old daughter, Cheri Ann. Her father is a Pumping Plant Operator at Hayfield.